

heart and soul of her extended family. She is a role model for her children and grandchildren. Her life example epitomizes both the love of family and commitment to community.

Kitty has raised public servants, community and church leaders and business owners. After working for 18 years at McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, she continues to contribute to her community, volunteering at St. Lambert's Catholic Church and its school.

I must confess that I have personally benefitted from the Wilka family's belief in public service. Kitty's son, Jeff, has volunteered in my Sioux Falls office since my first election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1978.

Born with cerebral palsy, Jeff grew up with a positive attitude and a determination to be involved in his community. He has been a loyal, dedicated and valued member of my Sioux Falls staff for over two decades. In fact, Jeff has become a fixture of sorts, having the second longest running tenure on my staff.

With the help of his loving mother and close-knit family, Jeff has overcome many obstacles in his life, including physical ailments that required surgery and therapy, and a dependency on alcohol. He has been sober for 11 years and is an ardent worker on behalf of many civic causes, including the Children's Care Hospital and School, the March of Dimes and Easter Seals. He also has a deeply held faith in our electoral process, working in the political trenches for many years for a variety of local, state and federal candidates in whose philosophy he believes.

I am proud of what Jeff has accomplished and the significant challenges he has overcome. I think he would be the first to tell you that his successes have been based upon the solid Midwestern values that Kitty and Bill Wilka instilled in him and his siblings. They taught their children to work hard, to never give up and to do their part to improve the communities in which they live. It is clear that Jeff has taken those lessons to heart.

Kitty Wilka has much to be proud of in her life. And I know that her loving family is extremely proud of her. I want to join her 12 children, 29 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren in wishing Kitty the very best on her birthday. She deserves it.

Happy 70th birthday, Kitty!

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, May 24, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,676,761,996,112.82 (Five trillion, six hundred seventy-six billion, seven hundred sixty-one million, nine hundred ninety-six thousand, one hundred twelve dollars and eighty-two cents).

One year ago, May 24, 1999, the Federal debt stood at \$5,597,943,000,000

(Five trillion, five hundred ninety-seven billion, nine hundred forty-three million).

Five years ago, May 24, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,887,785,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred eighty-seven billion, seven hundred eighty-five million).

Ten years ago, May 24, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,094,795,000,000 (Three trillion, ninety-four billion, seven hundred ninety-five million).

Fifteen years ago, May 24, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,751,794,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred fifty-one billion, seven hundred ninety-four million) which reflects a debt increase of almost \$4 trillion—\$3,924,967,996,112.82 (Three trillion, nine hundred twenty-four billion, nine hundred sixty-seven million, nine hundred ninety-six thousand, one hundred twelve dollars and eighty-two cents) during the past 15 years.

LEBANON

Mr. BROWNBACK. Mr. President, earlier this week, the Senate passed Concurrent Resolution 116, commending Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon. The resolution notes the original reason Israel was forced to occupy a narrow security strip in southern Lebanon—constant attacks on Israeli civilians from Lebanon-based terror groups. Israel had no designs on Lebanese territory; the Jerusalem government was forced to do the job that the central Lebanese authorities were unable or unwilling to perform.

Lebanon is in a sad situation. It is a nation torn by sectarian strife, occupied by tens of thousands of Syrian troops, and overrun with terrorists. In the final analysis, however, the government of Lebanon must be called to account. For more than two decades, the international community has bemoaned Lebanon's fate without demanding responsible leadership. That era is now over.

There are Christians and Muslims in southern Lebanon whose fate hangs in the balance. They have been under the protection of Israel for more than two decades. What will happen to them? Will they be subject to the whims of yet another Lebanese militia, a Hezbollah state within a state? Will Christians be forced to flee, as they have from the West Bank and from so many other states? Or will the Lebanese central government and the Lebanese Army, as required under United Nations Security Council resolutions, take control of southern Lebanon and ensure safety and security for all?

Will the Lebanese government allow the United Nations and UNIFIL to do its job and deployment throughout the South? Or will Lebanon remain a pawn in the hands of terrorists, a puppet state in the hands of Syria and Iran? This is the test. The President and the Congress have demanded that Lebanon secure its southern border and re-integrate southern Lebanese into the

country. Hezbollah must be disarmed. The Syrian military must be evicted. The world is watching and the time is now.

The citizens of northern Israel—indeed all Israelis—deserve to live within secure borders in peace. If they cannot, it is the solemn obligation of the Israeli government to secure those borders and to hunt down those who violate it and eliminate them. For my part as a United States Senator, I intend to do all that I can to support Israel in that aim, and to ensure that the means and the political, diplomatic and material support are at hand for the Israeli government to do just that.

This month could be a turning point for Lebanon, for Syria and for Israel. Or it could be the beginning of a new cycle of conflict. I pray that the Lebanese and the Syrians will be smart enough to seize the opportunity for real peace in the Middle East.

COMMEMORATING FREE ELECTIONS IN CROATIA

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, today I rise with my colleagues, Senators FEINGOLD, HUTCHINSON, ABRAHAM, and LIEBERMAN, to introduce a resolution congratulating the people of Croatia on their successful parliamentary and presidential elections, the peaceful transition of power, and new initiatives for reform. In addition to congratulating the people of Croatia, the resolution solidifies U.S. support for their progress and encourages Croatian participation in the NATO Partnership for Peace program. One day, I hope that we will be expressing our support for Croatia, and other nations with similar democratic inclination, in NATO itself.

Mr. President, the Balkan nations that are embracing democracy must be supported at every opportunity available because the government could so easily have taken the other path. The leaders of Croatia could have chosen to repress popular involvement and other fundamental rights of democracy, but instead they have chosen the harder but correct path of working through discourse, debate, and democracy. Because we have also been through these trials as a nation, it is my hope that the American people will watch closely the progress of the Croatian people and will support their path to freedom, stability, and peace.

The most important benefit to come out of this election will hopefully be the resolution of Croatia's domestic difficulties. Through the successful election, the Croatian people have taken the reins of control. In addition to the power instilled by this self-determination, the Croatian people are hopefully now spurred to take up the mission of reform that might further improve their government. Among the stated goals of President Mesic are the reintroduction of Serbian refugees to the homes they left behind, reform of the privatization system that has faced serious corruption allegations, and support for the International Criminal

Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. These improvements would certainly go far to legitimize the new Administration in the view of the international community but more importantly, in the eyes of the Croatian people. President Mesic's continued efforts on these fronts will show its people that their new government takes seriously the need for honesty and accountability.

As the government wins the support of its people, I am also encouraged by the efforts of the new Administration to get involved with the European community. In such a volatile region, a nation uniting the many groups will be the key to fostering a stable political and economic atmosphere. Part of the victory of democracy in Croatia has been the new spirit of regional harmony that I hope will spread to its neighbors. Peace in the Balkan nations will only come with honest attempts to live with difference, and Croatia will be a leader in the efforts for peace there.

In addition to better conditions in the Balkans, democracy will encourage the involvement of other foreign nations. Just two weeks ago, Croatian President Stipe Mesic met with French President Jacques Chirac to discuss an agreement on stabilization and association, as well as the Croatian entrance to the NATO Partnership for Peace program. The resolution I am supporting today suggests U.S. support for the addition of Croatia in the partnership, and I am happy to inform my colleagues that the nations of NATO have announced that Croatia will become a full member of the Partnership for Peace program today. This is truly a great accomplishment, and it affirms the commitment of all NATO allies to help Croatia in its chosen path.

In addition to my appreciation for the democratic and international progress of the Croatian people, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the work of the Croatian American Association in bringing this subject to my attention and to the attention of the American people. The Croatian American community has worked tirelessly to create bonds of friendship between our two nations, and I hope that as Croatia becomes more democratic and involved in worldwide political affairs that we, as Americans, will continue to support them.

Mr. President, I hope that this resolution will be an additional bond between two nations that democratic tenets have already joined.

ROLLING THUNDER'S 13TH ANNUAL RIDE FOR FREEDOM

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, today I want to recognize the 13th Annual Rolling Thunder "Ride for Freedom" and highlight the important role Rolling Thunder plays in making sure that our nation's POW/MIAs are honored and never forgotten.

The first time that Rolling Thunder's Ride for Freedom roared and rumbled

its way to the Vietnam Memorial on Memorial Day 1988, 2,400 motorcycles banded together for the ride. Some 5,000 Veterans, their wives, children, and other citizens of all backgrounds gathered near the Vietnam Memorial Wall to honor and remember our nation's POW/MIAs. Since then, Rolling Thunder has grown into an international event that garners national attention and focuses it on remembering our POW/MIAs. In fact, Rolling Thunder has become such a large presence that anyone who happens to be anywhere near our nation's Capital cannot help but notice it. For example, last year's Rolling Thunder run included over 250,000 motorcycles and 400,000 participants. There were people at last year's run from every state in the nation, and many foreign countries including Canada, England, Germany, France, Austria, Holland, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand. Made up of over 40 Chapters throughout the United States, Rolling Thunder is a volunteer, non-profit organization.

I would like to thank the several organizations whose support and efforts have helped make Rolling Thunder possible here in Washington D.C. for the past twelve years: the Virginia Police, Virginia State Police, Maryland Police, D.C. Metropolitan Police, Park Police, Park Services and the Pentagon.

I also want to take this opportunity to highlight some legislation I sponsored and Rolling Thunder supports. Rolling Thunder's input and support has been invaluable to the legislative process.

The first bill I want to mention is S. 484, the Bring Them Home Alive Act of 1999. This legislation would grant asylum in the United States to foreign nationals from key countries who personally deliver a living American POW/MIA from either the Vietnam War or the Korean War to the United States.

A key section of this bill would help spread news of the Bring Them Home Alive Act around the world. This is needed to help make sure that the key foreign nationals who need to hear about this act, hear about it. The bill calls on the International Broadcasting Bureau to use its assets, including WORLDNET Television and its Internet sites, to spread the news. The bill also calls on Voice of America, Radio Free Europe and Radio Free Asia to participate.

If this bill leads to even one long-held POW/MIA being returned home to America alive this effort will be well worth it—10,000 times over. Even though it has been decades since these two wars ended, they have not ended for any Americans who may have been left behind and are still alive or their families and friends. As long as there remains even the slightest possibility that there may be surviving POWs in these regions, we owe it to our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines to do everything possible to bring them home alive. This is the least we can do after all they have sacrificed.

Today, I am especially pleased to announce that S. 484 passed the Senate last Wednesday, May 24th. Now we need to get it passed in the House of Representatives and enacted into law.

Rolling Thunder was also helpful in getting another important bill enacted into law, the National POW-MIA Recognition Act, legislation I sponsored in the 105th Congress.

This law requires that the POW-MIA flag be displayed on important national buildings—all across America—on six important days. These days include: Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Independence Day, Armed Forces Day, Flag Day and National POW-MIA Recognition Day.

Rolling Thunder captures the American people's attention—and those elected to represent them—and then brightly focuses our attention on remembrance of, and continuing duty to, our nation's POWs and MIAs.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

H.R. 4489 IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE DATA MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 4489, the "Immigration and Naturalization Service Data Management Improvement Act of 2000." Passage of this legislation will repeal Section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 and prevent it from ever being implemented.

Section 110 of the 1996 Immigration law was intended to track individuals who overstay their legally permissible visit in the U.S. However, to accomplish that well-intentioned goal, this law required all foreign travelers or U.S. permanent residents to be individually recorded at ports of entry. In practical effect, the provisions would bring traffic to a halt on the Canadian border for miles.

Those of us who represent states along the Canadian border are well-aware of the close bonds between the U.S. and Canada. The U.S.-Canadian border is the longest continuous open border in the free world and Canadians come into our country freely and easily under current U.S. policy. In Maine, our ties with Canada are particularly deep because many Mainers' extended families live across the border in Canada. Our current border-crossing policy allows these family members to quickly and easily cross the border every day in order to be with a husband, wife, a brother, a sister, cousin or even in-laws as the case may be.

Canada is not only our friend and ally, but our largest trading partner—it is important to maintain and foster our relationship with our neighbor to the North by promoting U.S.-Canadian friendship and trade. The ill-thought out provisions passed as part of the 1996 immigration law would grossly delay